SEIU 1984
SEA/SEIU LOCAL 1984

SEA NEWS

October, 2026

IN THIS ISSUE:

What's Happening This October

As we gear up for a busy fall, this issue is packed with critical updates, community events, and opportunities to make your voice heard.

First, we recap the recent primary election results and share our Get Out the Vote initiative for November—because strong leadership starts with an engaged membership.

Speaking of leadership, inside you'll meet the candidates running for our Board of Directors and preview key Annual Convention proposals, including proposed updates to our chapter structures.

We're also proud to highlight community impact and connection:

- **22nd Annual NH Veteran Stand Down:** Get event details and see how we're supporting local veterans with essential services via Harbor Care NH.
- **DES Potluck Cook-off:** Bring your appetite and your best dish for some friendly competition!
- **Financial Future Planning:** Explore resources to help secure your personal and family financial wellness.
- **Operation Santa Claus:** Learn how you or your team can sponsor a child and bring holiday joy to local families.

Dive in to catch up on the results, review candidate profiles before you cast your vote, and find out how to get involved!



ELECTION RESULTS:

How Our Endorsements Played Out

In the recent Democratic primaries, our union's endorsements of Rep. Pappas, Rep. Goodlander and Stefany Shaheen were not only wise investments, they accurately reflected the will of the New Hampshire voters. Huge wins across the board for our Democratic members.

To those following SEA / SEIU 1984 closely, you will have noticed a new approach of endorsing in the primaries of both major political parties. We endorsed Victor Orlando in Congressional District 2's GOP Primary. Although he did not win, during the WMUR Debates, he had a sensational performance and his answer concerning what union support meant to him as a conservative Republican went viral in New Hampshire.

We also endorsed former Sen. John Sununu. That decision helped ensure that in the U.S. Senate race the central conversation is around affordability. It is focused on everyone doing everything they can to bring down the cost of living.

We also supported 19 New Hampshire House Republicans who helped us defeat so-called "Right-To-Work" Legislation in the Statehouse and 17 of those candidates will proceed to the General Election.





Your Voice. Your Vote. Your Future.

Election Day is November 3. Make a plan to vote!

Midterm elections shape daily life, and your ballot is your power to influence the direction of your country, state, and local communities. Every single vote matters, and democracy works best when everyone participates.

Our union is well positioned this election season, but that only matters if we show up. We need all of our members to make a plan, cast their ballots, and participate in this election.

Make Your Voting Plan

Take a few minutes now to:

- Check your voter registration.
- Find your polling place and confirm its hours.
- Learn about your state's early-voting and vote-by-mail options.
- Review your ballot and make sure you know what will be on it.
- Mark November 3 on your calendar and make time to vote.

Please keep a lookout for more information on our website and social media for updates on our endorsements and for ways to support our union-endorsed champions of Labor!

Make your plan. Make your voice heard. Vote on November 3!



Meet Your 2026 Board of Directors Candidates



KRISTY BLANCHETTE

3-year term, Executive Branch

My name is Kristy Blanchette, and I am an Enforcement Officer with the Bureau of Child Support Services. Born and raised in Belmont, New Hampshire, I've dedicated my career to public service, advocacy, and ensuring that every member within our diverse community has a voice.

I have proudly served on the board for more than six years, continuing to work hard for our members and support the mission we share. During the COVID years, I chaired both the Labor Management Committee (LMC) and the Safety Committee at Employment Security. It was a challenging time, but through collaboration and determination, we made sure staff could work safely. One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is helping to establish the hybrid and remote work schedules that are still in place today.

Currently, I serve on the LMC for the Department of Health and Human Services, and I've been a Union Steward for over a decade. Throughout the years, I've served on multiple committees, including my role as Chair of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Resolutions Committee—a position that has been incredibly rewarding. I also served on the Master Bargaining Team, where we successfully secured the 10% and 2% cost-of-living raises for members.

Outside of work, I love camping and volunteering in my community. I try to approach everything I do with kindness and understanding, inspired by one of my favorite quotes: "A warm smile is the universal language of kindness," by William Arthur Ward.

I will continue to advocate for all members and bring a thoughtful, inclusive perspective to difficult conversations. We are a diverse group, and I believe strongly that every person should feel heard, valued, and represented.

Looking ahead, my goal is to keep strengthening member engagement, expand communication across departments, and help build a more connected, supportive environment for everyone. I'm committed to continuing my leadership, embracing new challenges, and making sure every member feels empowered and included as we move forward together.

2026 Board of Directors Candidates



RALPH MECHEAU

3-year term, Executive Branch

I've worked for the State of New Hampshire as a part-time employee at the New Hampshire Liquor Commission retail outlet for 18 years. I joined the Union 12 years ago and became a Councilor. Since joining I've held various posts including the Board of Directors since October 2021. I'm currently seeking re-election to the Board of Directors for a three-year term.

As a semi-retired part-time state employee, I bring unique availability to our union. During my tenure as a member, I have held the following positions:

- Union Councilor 2013 to present
- Communication Committee 2015 to 2018
- Political Education Committee 2017, Committee Chair since 2023
- Master Bargaining Team 2018 to 2022
- Chapter 54 Sub-Unit Bargaining 2018 to 2024
- Chapter 54 LMC member
- Chapter 54 Vice President 2019 to 2022
- Chapter 54 President 2022 to 2024
- Finance Advisory Committee Member 2022 to present



ALLANA ROSE

Remainder of 1-year term, CCSNH

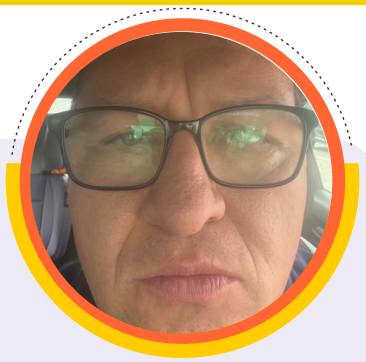
I am an Enrollment Operations Specialist at Lakes Region Community College where I process applications for admission, support students utilizing financial aid, onboard incoming students by helping them get registered for their first semester, and assist with campus events.

Currently, I serve as the Chapter 28 vice president and am acting president until our next vote. I am also on the Labor Management Committee and helped bargain our current contract.

I believe that unions are important, our voices matter and participation is vital. The collective power that we have as a group ensures that there is fairness, safety, and provides a line of communication with management and CCSNH.

With the experience that I have in negotiating and discussing important matters with CCSNH and management, I am a good candidate for the CCSNH seat on the Board of Directors.

I have personally grieved an item, gone to arbitration, and won, so I have firsthand experience in the power of the CBA and our union.



TERRY LOCKE

3-year term, Executive Branch

My name is Terry Locke, and I am asking for your vote to become a member on the Board of Directors.

I originally was a member of the State Employees Association in 2008 for the Strafford County Department of Corrections in Dover, NH. The Corrections Officers shared a chapter with Riverside Rest Home. The Strafford County Corrections Officers wanted to start a new chapter to reflect their wants and beliefs as a union. I helped start the new chapter, which is now Chapter 52.

I was a steward, a councilor, a vice president, and a president in Chapter 52. I am very proud of the accomplishments made in Chapter 52 during my time there. I was also on the Board of Directors during that time as I was a member of Chapter 52. I joined the New Hampshire Department of Corrections in 2018 and rejoined the SEA in 2024 when I made Sergeant. I am currently a steward for Chapter 255.

I am asking for your vote to rejoin the Board of Directors. I look forward to the opportunity and challenges that arise for the employees of the state of New Hampshire by helping members when they ask.

I would take great pride in being on the Board of Directors for the County/Municipal and for the State. I feel very blessed to be involved with such an outstanding organization and outstanding people.



LAURIE PELLETIER

3-year term, Executive Branch

I joined the SEA in December 2000 and have been an active member throughout my union career. In 2016, I left State service to work for the SEA as a Field Representative, gaining valuable experience advocating for and supporting our members. In January 2021, I returned to State service and rejoined the Union as a member.

My commitment to the SEA continued to grow, and in 2022, I was elected President of Chapter 45. In 2023, I was elected to the Board of Directors, where I currently serve as Chair of the Member Benefits Committee.

Having experienced the Union from both sides—as a member and as a former SEA employee—I bring a unique perspective to my role. That experience has shaped how I approach representation and decision-making on the Board. I believe in advocating for strong working conditions, fair and effective contracts, and meaningful benefits that support all State employees.

I am committed to using my experience, knowledge, and understanding of our membership to help strengthen our Union and improve the working lives of the employees we represent.

2026 Board of Directors Candidates



SHAWN JONES

Remainder of 2-year term, Executive Branch

To my Union brothers and sisters, I am completing my first-year term on the Board of Directors and am now running to fill the remainder of a two-year term. In the past year I have learned a lot of what happens behind the scenes of our Union and how it affects all of us. I am currently assisting our Local 1984 with a new contract with SEIU International where I want to ensure that we are getting the “best bang for our buck.”

I have been a member of the SEA for most of my 28 years as a state employee. I have served as a steward, counselor and chapter treasurer. I am currently a member of Chapter 11 at the NH Veterans Home. I bring a conservative perspective to the board and would appreciate your vote at this year’s convention.

Supporting Our Veterans at the 22nd Annual NH

VETERAN STAND DOWN

The 22nd Annual NH Veteran Stand Down took place on Friday, September 18, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Eversource Energy Park, 780 N. Commercial Street in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The free event brought together veterans, former service members, military families, and community organizations for a day focused on connection, support, and access to important resources. Attendees connected with organizations and service providers offering assistance and information on a wide range of needs.

Veterans attending the Stand Down received complimentary breakfast and lunch, with additional food trucks and live music available throughout the event.

Our Union is proud to support this important event. SEA Staff handed out MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) to veterans and helped support the Stand Down throughout the day.

We’re honored to stand alongside our veterans and the Manchester community in recognizing the service and sacrifices of those who have served our country.







Two Proposed Amendments: What They Mean for SEA Members

Rich Gulla, President

At this year's Annual Convention, members will consider two constitutional amendments that would make significant changes to how our union is organized and governed.

Constitutional language can sometimes be difficult to follow, so I want to explain these proposals in straightforward terms. Both amendments are intended to address challenges we are experiencing under our current structure while giving individual members and bargaining units a stronger voice in the decisions that affect them.

C1 Giving Bargaining Units an Alternative to the Chapter Structure

Under our current Constitution, every bargaining unit must belong to a chapter. Each chapter must elect officers, conduct meetings and fulfill several other responsibilities.

Increasingly, however, bargaining units are struggling to find members willing to fill all the required chapter offices. Some members hold multiple positions because no one else is available, while others question whether every position remains meaningful or necessary.

When a chapter cannot meet these requirements, it can lose its chapter status and be combined with another chapter. That may sound reasonable on paper, but it often places bargaining units together that have little in common. They may face entirely different workplace issues or may not even work for the same employer. When members do not see a connection between the chapter's activities and their own workplace, participation can decline even further.

The proposed amendment would provide another option.

If a chapter could no longer sustain itself, its bargaining unit would not automatically be placed into another chapter. Instead, members would continue to be organized around their own bargaining unit.

Most importantly, bargaining-unit members would not lose their autonomy. They would still be able to:

- Hold bargaining-unit meetings.
- Identify their bargaining priorities.
- Select their bargaining team.
- Participate in decisions affecting their contract and workplace.
- Receive information and support from SEA staff.

SEA staff would hold regular meetings to provide information, hear members' concerns and answer questions. When a meeting required formal action, an SEA staff member or a member appointed to chair that meeting would conduct the process.

This proposal would not eliminate chapters. Chapters that remain active, elect their officers and hold the required meetings could continue operating as they do today. SEA staff would continue encouraging member participation and assisting with elections to ensure that required procedures are followed.

Simply put, C1 would make the chapter structure optional for bargaining units that cannot sustain it, without taking away their voice or control over collective bargaining.

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C2 Giving Every Member a Direct Vote

The second proposed amendment would establish a “one member, one vote” system of governance. Currently, SEA uses a representative system. Members elect delegates, and those delegates make up the Council and Convention and vote on the union’s major decisions.

Under the proposed amendment, every member in good standing would have the right to attend Council and Convention meetings and vote directly. Members would no longer need to be elected as delegates before participating in those decisions.

This would give each member a direct vote on matters including:

- Constitutional amendments.
- Resolutions establishing the union’s direction.
- Election of the SEA Board of Directors.
- Election of the union’s officers.
- Other major issues brought before the Council or Convention.

The purpose is to give rank-and-file members a more direct voice and create additional opportunities for participation. It would also reduce the number of elected delegate positions that bargaining units are required to fill—another area where finding volunteers has become increasingly difficult.

SEA’s representative structure is unusual compared with many other unions and SEIU locals, which commonly use a direct, one-member, one-vote system. The proposed amendment would bring SEA closer to that model and more closely align our governance structure with federal labor-law requirements and guidance.

Simply put, C2 would replace voting through elected delegates with direct voting by every eligible SEA member who participates.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION FOR OUR MEMBERS

These amendments concern something fundamental: how members organize themselves and exercise authority within their union.

C1 would allow bargaining units to maintain their independence even when they cannot sustain a formal chapter. C2 would allow every member in good standing to participate directly in the union’s most important decisions.

Before the Convention, I encourage every member to read the proposed amendments, ask questions and consider what these changes would mean for the future of SEA. Whatever decision is ultimately made, it should be an informed decision made by the members whose union this is.



IT'S TIME FOR SCREEEMFEST AT CANOBIE LAKE PARK!

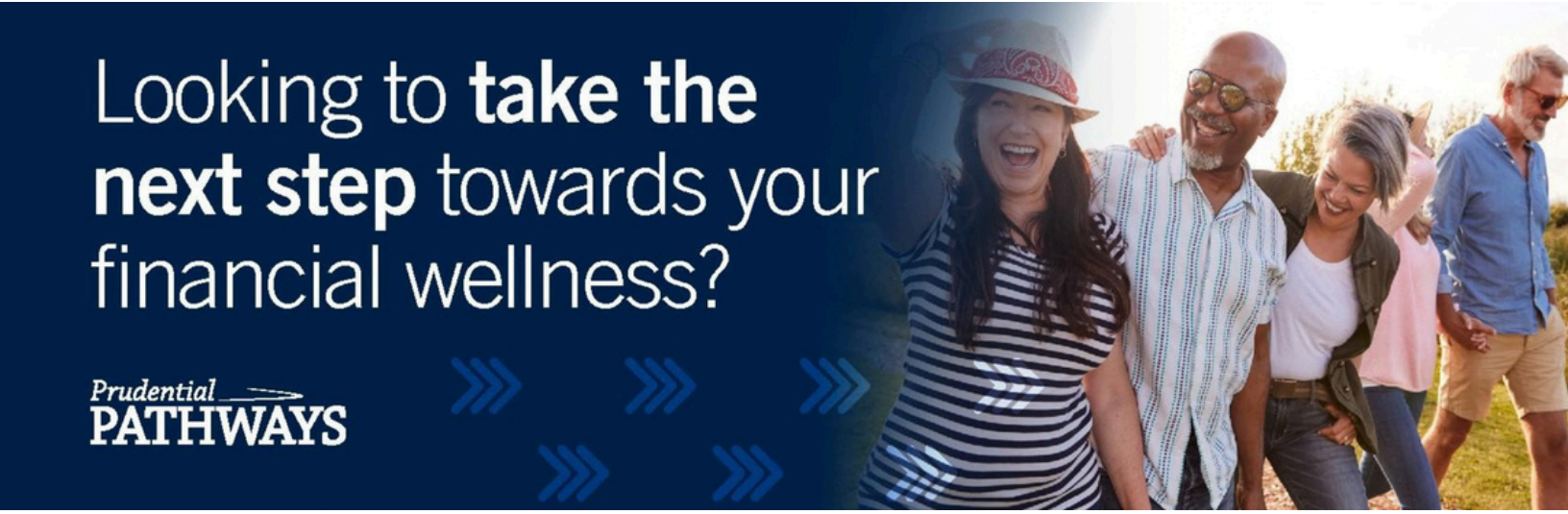


We are excited to let you know that the 2026 Online Corporate Discount Ticket Program runs through our Fall Screeemfest season which begins on Saturday, September 26th and ends on Saturday, October 31st!

The Online Ticket Discount is up to $8 off the date-specific general admission pricing. Discount varies by date. members will also be able to purchase tickets for guests under 48 inches tall or age 60 years and older, as well as Screeem Express Vouchers. As always, children aged 3 years and under enjoy free admission.

Please note, only the online date-specific general admission tickets may have discounted rates and that other available products will not be discounted.

Call the SEA for the QR code to buy your online tickets!



Pathways to Financial Peace of Mind: A 3-Part Prudential Series

You are Invited to Attend a 3-Part Financial Wellness Educational Series in October.

Have you invested in your financial wellness lately? This seminar series, hosted by Prudential Pathways, can help reboot your financial wellness strategy by sharing steps to organize your finances, such as creating a budget, prioritizing paying off debt, and planning for retirement.

We invite you to attend this comprehensive series to help you kickstart your financial future planning in three easy-to-understand seminars, including topics like:

- **Setting your financial goals**
- **Healthcare planning**
- **Estate planning strategies**
- **Managing your assets through risk management**
- **Retirement & asset distribution planning**
- **How your employee benefits fit into your overall financial wellness**
- **Investment principles**
- **Tax strategies**

So take the first step in reaching your financial wellness goals by signing up today!

Wednesday, October 14, 21 & 28, 2026

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET
Virtual – Zoom

Click to Register: October Webinars

Make sure to add the event to your calendar!

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Crock Pot Cook-Off



It's that time of year again! Get ready for the annual NHDES Operation Santa Claus Crock Pot Cook-Off on Wednesday, October 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Atrium/Cafeteria.

Come hungry and sample the delicious crockpot creations made by our very own staff! Once you've tasted your way through the entries, cast your vote for your favorite. The cook who receives the most votes will take home a gift card prize!

A minimum $6 donation is strongly encouraged to participate. Cash and Venmo will be accepted.

Best of all, **100% of the proceeds benefit our Operation Santa Claus fundraiser**, helping make the holiday season brighter for local families.

Contact Terri Alden x2513 (Teams chat or email as well) to sign up as a cook or with any questions regarding the event.

Bring your appetite, support a great cause, and help us crown this year's Crock Pot Cook-Off champion!

BE SANTA'S HELPER:
Sponsor a Child Through Operation Santa Claus



As the holiday season approaches, thousands of children in our community are holding out hope that Santa won't forget them this year. Through Operation Santa Claus, we have the power to make sure every single one of those wishes is answered.

We are actively seeking individuals, workplace teams, and local businesses to step up as sponsors. Whether you take on a single child's wish list, pool resources with colleagues to support an entire family, or provide a financial donation to cover core costs, your contribution goes directly to a child who needs it most.



THREE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

1. **Adopt a Wish List:** Receive specific gift requests and shop directly for a child.
2. **Form a Department or Group Team:** Rally your department or community group to sponsor multiple kids together.
3. **Donate Funds:** Financial contributions allow our team to purchase remaining high-need items and fulfill last-minute requests.

Don't let a child wake up to an empty tree.
Step in, spread the cheer, and make this holiday unforgettable!
Contact seaosc@seiu1984.org to become a sponsor.

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS
STATE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION OF NH

CONTINUE TO ENJOY YOUR UNION BENEFITS AS A RETIREE TODAY!



Join CHAPTER 1

Thinking About Retirement? Stay Connected with the SEA!

If retirement is on your horizon, don't leave your union behind. By joining SEA's Chapter 1 — the Retired Members' Chapter — you can stay informed, involved, and connected while continuing to enjoy your union benefits. Simply scan the QR code below with your phone to join.

As a Chapter 1 member, you remain an important part of this Association. Every retiree who stays involved helps strengthen our collective voice as we continue fighting to protect and improve benefits for both retired and active members.

Chapter 1 offers opportunities to stay engaged through committees, volunteer efforts, legislative advocacy, and monthly meetings (excluding summer months). Members also enjoy educational programs, social gatherings, and fun activities throughout the year.

Retirement is a new chapter — stay connected to the union community that has always stood beside you. For a full list of monthly programs, click here.

SCAN ME

Join our Chapter 1 Member Portal, where you can find a schedule of the years' events, minutes from meetings and more!



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Visit Our Portal

FOR MORE INFORMATION!